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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

9 March 1959

SIRAB

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

no

USSR: [In a recent talk with an American official, the counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Paris remarked that 1959 will be the year of conferences. He said a foreign ministers' conference must be followed by a summit meeting and that these will lead to an East-West compromise. The only "real solution" he saw, however, was for President Eisenhower, who enjoys enormous prestige in the USSR, to invite Khrushchev to the United States. According to the Soviet counselor, bilateral talks between the two leaders could produce friendly relations lasting for ten years. He said no future American President would command such prestige in the USSR and suggested that the President could later visit Moscow.]

no

Rumania-Israel: Probably in deference to Arab protests, the number of documents submitted to the Israeli Legation in Bucharest for visas has been sharply reduced since 25 February, when the Rumanian Government issued a statement denying any "large-scale" emigration. New applications for emigration, however, continue to be processed, and Israeli officials in Bucharest claim that they see no indication of an imminent halt. The UAR Government notified its posts abroad on 4 March that it had accepted assurances from the bloc countries that there would be no large-scale exodus.

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DOCUMENT NO. 45
 NO CHANGE IN CLASS.
 DECLASSIFIED
 CLASS. CHANGED TO: T
 NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
 AUTH: HP 70
 DATE: 4-4-80 REVIEWER: 372044

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*Iraq (Information as of 0430 EST): The revolt of anti-Communist army elements which seized the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on the night of 7-8 March is not yet reported to have spread to other parts of the country. Coup plans calling for the assassination of Prime Minister Qasim apparently aborted. The rebels may be able to maintain their hold on Mosul--a center of anti-Qasim sentiment--for some time, especially with the assistance in men and materiel being given them by the UAR, but unless other army units join them to bring pressure on Baghdad itself, their chances of overthrowing the regime are remote. Baghdad radio claims that the rebellion has been crushed and its leader killed have not been confirmed, and appear intended to discourage new defections to the rebels. The rebel radio, meanwhile, has denied Baghdad's claims and has declared the intention to move on the capital. [redacted]

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III. THE WEST

France-NATO: [Paris' note of 6 March to NATO states that the French Mediterranean fleet will be under exclusively national control in wartime, but will cooperate with Allied naval units provided there is no conflict with its "principal mission" of defending France's North African interests. Both the note itself and Foreign Minister Couve de Murville's comments to US Chargé Lyon attribute this move to France's concern over the Algerian situation, and the note pointedly refers to "the absence of any real solidarity" in NATO on Algeria. The French rejection of an agreed obligation is likely to arouse strong feelings among other NATO members.] [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Jewish Emigration From Rumania Slowing Down

Since 25 February, Rumanian authorities have sharply reduced the number of exit documents being submitted to the Israeli Legation for visas, according to Israeli officials in Bucharest. As of 24 February, two to three hundred visas were being issued daily. The next day, the Rumanian Government issued a statement that some Jews were being allowed to join their families in Israel "for humanitarian reasons" but that no "large-scale" emigration had taken place and that only a small percentage of Rumania's 146,000 Jews would be allowed to leave. Approximately 17,000 have already arrived in Israel from Rumania since May 1958.

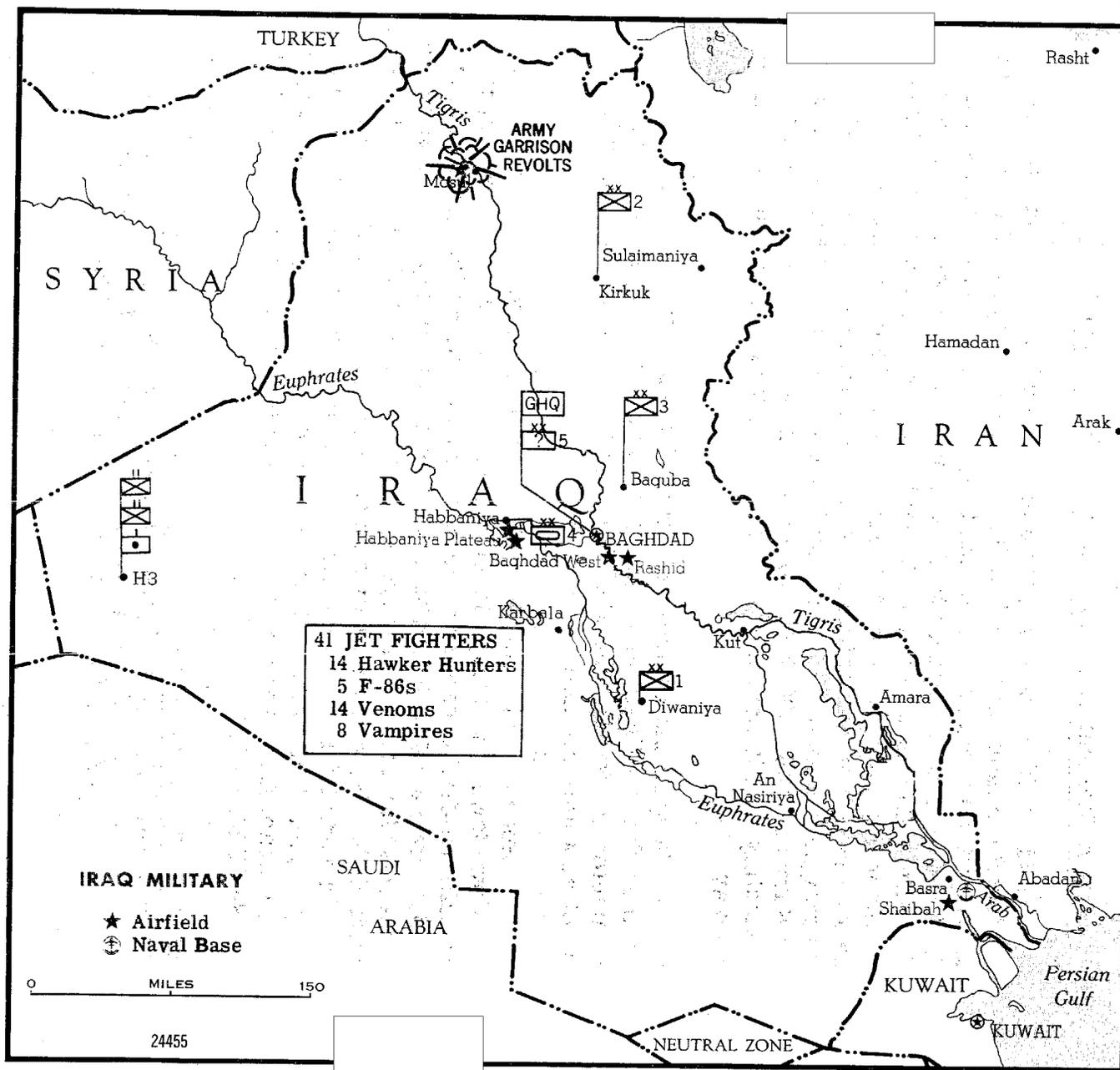
Despite the reduction, Israeli Legation officials deny a rumor that applications for emigration are no longer being accepted by Rumanian authorities, and claim to see no indication of an imminent halt.

[Recent Arab protests to bloc countries probably caused the slow-down. An early March meeting of the Arab League Council had the Jewish exodus from Eastern Europe as the main item on its agenda.] The UAR [redacted] it had accepted the assurances of Rumania, Hungary, and the USSR that there would be no large-scale exodus, and considered that Israel had "persistently inflated" its reports of immigration. The UAR's major concern now is in stopping financial aid to Israel from abroad, especially from the United States. [redacted]

[redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

The Iraqi Situation

On the night of 7-8 March dissident anti-Communist Iraqi Army forces seized control of Mosul, a city 200 miles north of Baghdad. This action, evidently part of a larger plot to assassinate Prime Minister Qasim and seize control of the government, has led the rebels to proclaim that they are now the rightful government of Iraq. The rebel radio in Mosul has broadcast a communiqué accusing Qasim of attempting to set himself up as "another God," persecuting patriotic army officers, and "handing the country over" to the Communists.

[redacted] the rebels are receiving active support from the UAR, including the shipment of a radio transmitter and arms, as well as plans to send 200 "technicians" to bolster the rebel forces. These "technicians" are likely to be terrorist and sabotage experts.

Baghdad radio claims that the rebellion has been crushed and its leader, Mosul garrison commander Col. Abd al-Wahhab al-Shawwaf, killed, have not been confirmed, and appear intended to discourage new defections to the rebels. The rebel radio, meanwhile, has denied Baghdad's claims and has declared the intention to move on the capital.

One Communist newspaper accused Qasim of being too lenient with the leaders of the former royal regime. The paper ominously added that if those responsible for the "killing of Partisans of Peace" in Mosul on 6 March were not arrested, the Iraqi "masses would take the law into their own hands." This threat could result in incidents involving Westerners. Baghdad has ordered stringent security measures throughout the remainder of the country and has closed all airports.

There are no indications that the revolt has spread to other garrisons, which may be waiting to see "how the wind blows" before committing themselves. This was what occurred at the time of the 14 July revolution. Unless other army units join the rebel cause or bring pressure on Baghdad, the rebels' chances of overthrowing the Qasim regime are remote. [redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~ [redacted]

III. THE WEST

France Withdraws Its Mediterranean Fleet from NATO

[France's 6 March note to NATO states that it is resuming national control "in time of war" over its naval forces in the Mediterranean. The fleet has been under French control in peace-time, but "earmarked" for NATO command in war. The 6 March note states the fleet will "cooperate" with Allied units in war "if this does not conflict with the fleet's principal mission," defined as the defense of the French and North African shores and the communications between.]

[The note explains that the fleet's mission in either war or peace must "on a priority basis" be an exclusively national mission, "especially in the absence of any real solidarity" on the problems of Algeria and North Africa generally. Foreign Minister Couve de Murville underlined this aspect of the note by telling US Chargé Lyon that the move was motivated entirely by the Algerian situation.]

[The French have repeatedly expressed the view that their allies did not fully appreciate the contribution France was making to the alliance by its effort in Algeria, which they conceive as defending NATO from being outflanked to the south and hence as vital to the whole Western world. To obtain NATO backing of French policies in Africa and the retention of French military and naval bases there, De Gaulle has reportedly considered proposing that NATO expand its area of responsibility to include the Sahara.]

[This French move climaxes other recent French obstructionist tactics in NATO aimed at safeguarding national prerogatives. Paris' opposition to the projects for an atomic stockpile and integrated air defense have drawn sharp Allied criticism. The French rejection of an agreed obligation is likely to arouse strong feelings among other NATO members.]

—SECRET—

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